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# A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY NEWS LETTER



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## BEGINNING ANOTHER YEAR

With this issue A Seventeenth Century News-Letter enters upon its second year, a period even more crucial than the first year. Last year, the News-Letter needed to justify its existence. That test, if comments and correspondence are a fair indication, has been met. The need for the News-Letter this year is pointed by the fact that the M.L.A. had to cancel its 1942 sessions and will almost certainly cancel those scheduled for 1943. The ranks of scholars active in our field are being steadily and systematically depleted, and this process will continue. Normal curricula are already disrupted, and the end is not yet. At such a time the functions of the News-Letter are multiplied by the needs of those who remain in academic circles and would maintain a humanist serenity of mind. Not that the News-Letter presents itself as escapist literature! On the contrary, it will seek to impart a measure of courage and optimism to seventeenth-century colleagues who today have a minimum of time and energy for the pursuits to which they have dedicated their normal academic careers.

## INFORMATION PLEASE

Will the monthly Aenigma whet  
your wits and remind you to tinker

with your own unsolved puzzles? Do scholarly queries awaken memories of long buried bits of information, unneeded by yourself, but now useful to another scholar? Do the records of seventeenth-century manuscripts appearing on the market suggest new problems for graduate students in the days when literary research will be resumed? Had you heard before of the military or naval proficiency of your bookish colleagues?

The News-Letter will try to help its readers in these and other ways. It is largely dependent on readers for suggestions, queries, and news items. It is wholly dependent on subscribers for financial support. So be sure to send us questions, comments, news about other members of the group, their scholarly activities, their military or naval status, and the like. Only through cooperation shall we be able to serve each other.

## OBITUARY

But mongst them all was none  
more courteous Knight,  
Then Calidore, beloued over all,  
In whom it seemes, that gentleness  
of spright  
And manners mylde were planted  
naturall;  
To which he adding comely guize  
withall,  
And gracious speach, did steale

mens hearts away.  
 Nathlesse thereto he was full  
 stout and tall,  
 And well approu'd in batteilous  
 affray,  
 That him did much renowme, and  
 far his fame display.

The sudden death of Frederick Morgan Padelford on December 3 brought grief to a multitude of his friends and closed a long and productive career of scholarship. A loyal friend and an inspiring teacher, Padelford's latest years were crowned with honors. At the time of his death he was Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Washington, Senator of Phi Beta Kappa, President of the Modern Language Association, managing editor of Modern Language Quarterly, and one of the General Editors of the Variorum Spenser.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following statement of receipts and disbursements, prepared for submission to the Group in December, is as of December 28, 1942.

Subscriptions received	\$118.00	
Expenses:		
Stamped envelopes	\$31.59	
Post cards	1.00	
Stamps	.75	
Columbia University		
Press for printing		
issues 1,2,3,4	81.47	
Total expenses		114.81
Balance on hand		3.19

The acting treasurer also has on hand 168 stamped envelopes, which will be sufficient to mail out the next number. A few subscriptions have been received since December.

The first year thus ends with a small balance of cash -- not enough to pay the costs of this issue. Had the MLA met in December, the editors are confident that paid subscriptions would have been adequate for this year's needs. Now

the editors announce the publication of Volume II and have recourse to the words of John Heminge and Henrie Condell, who in 1623 offered an incomparably greater treasure to the public.

To the Great Variety of Readers,

From the most able, to him that can but spell: There you are number'd. We had rather you were weighd. Especially when the fate of all Bookes depends vpon your capacities: and not of your heads alone, but of your purses. Well! It is now publique, & you will stand for your priuiledges wee know: to read, and censure. Do so, but buy it first. That doth best commend a Booke, the Stationer saies.... Iudge your sixe-pen'orth, your shillings worth, your fiue shillings worth at a time, or higher, so you rise to the iust rates, and welcome. But, what euer you do, Buy.

John Heminge  
 Henrie Condell

Without delay send your subscription and your check for \$1.00 to J. Milton French, Rutgers University. If you have friends abroad or in uniform who would welcome a copy, supply the names and addresses, and one dollar for each additional subscription.

#### IDENTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE

The letter printed in facsimile in the previous issue was by Edmund Waller. Notes from readers as to the circumstances under which it was written will be welcome. The original is in the Pierpont Morgan Library.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LATIN BOOKS

Don C. Allen (Johns Hopkins) writes that he and Leicester Bradner (Brown) are still looking for five or six associates to work on



the Bibliography of Latin Books (1500-1650). Collaborators have already started work on all but a few of the latter letters of the alphabet.

#### SCHOLARS IN UNIFORM

Lieutenant-Colonel John Bakeless has the double satisfaction of serving in the armed forces and seeing in print his latest book, Christopher Marlowe.

H. T. Swedenberg, Jr., whose book on the Neo-Classic Theory of the Epic in England, 1660-1800, is being published by the University of California Press, is a first lieutenant in the army and is doing editorial work at one of the balloon-barrage schools.

Lieutenant Leslie Hotson, newly commissioned in the army, is stationed in Washington, D.C.

#### MILTON'S METER: A NOTE

Many editors and critics persist in speaking of the "irregular" meter and rime scheme of Milton's "Upon the Circumcision." The New Cambridge edition is, I believe, the latest to nod. Scrutiny reveals, however, that the rime pattern and meter are perfectly regular. The poem is divided into two fourteen-line stanzas exactly alike in both meter and rime scheme (which resembles the rime scheme of the Italian sonnet in reverse). One may be reminded of the sonnet-like final chorus of "Samson Agonistes." Observation of these facts is important because, in point of form, "Upon the Circumcision" is nearer the Fair Infant elegy, the "Nativity Ode," "The Passion," the opening stanzas of "L'Allegro" and "Il Penseroso," and the Italian canzone than it is to its traditional and truly "irregular" companions, "On Time" and "At a Solemn Music."

--W. R. P.

#### TWO QUERIES ABOUT MILTON

1. Milton stands out among English travelers to Italy for his warm reception, as he thought it, by the literary academies. Even Evelyn, meeting virtuosi and literati in his grand seigneur manner, made nothing like so much out of them as Milton made of his brief months. Certainly Evelyn had nothing to say about the academies as such, in contrast to the raptures of Milton which were later to disgust Symonds (The Revival of Learning, c.vi, p.497, in Modern Library ed.), though I doubt if they would have surprised Evelyn.

My question is, how did Milton achieve his happy entrée to the Florentine academies? Wotton does not seem to have introduced him, and Milton does not say. Did a chance acquaintance turn the trick here too, as one later introduced him to Manso? Has anyone a theory?

2. Milton's Moscovia was compiled "at a vacant time," he tells us, and the publisher of the book adds that it "was writ by the Author's own hand, before he lost his sight." One such vacant time, at least as far as the record of his official duties goes, is in the interval between the publication of Elkonoklastes, October 6, 1649, and his commission to write the reply to Salmasius, given January 8, 1650. Now this was the time when Russia was newly and seriously on the official mind of England. In June, on hearing of the regicide, the Emperor had all but expelled the English merchants. By December 2 the gathering protests of the merchants were endorsed by the Council of State, which ordered a letter of protest drafted; on January 4, 1650, the draft was presented to the House; on January 23 the special envoy to carry the letter was designated, by name Colonel William Hawley.

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general  
discussion of the problem. It is shown that the  
problem is of great importance and that it has  
not been completely solved. The author then  
presents a new method for solving the problem.  
The method is based on the use of the  
variational principle. It is shown that the  
method is very simple and that it can be  
applied to a wide range of problems. The  
author then gives some numerical results and  
compares them with the results of other  
methods. It is shown that the new method  
gives results which are in good agreement  
with the results of other methods. The  
author then concludes the paper by stating  
that the new method is a very useful  
tool for solving problems of this type.

In fact he did not go, and the envoy was not actually sent for several years. (See Inna Lubimenko in 4 Transactions Royal Historical Society 11, 39-59, 1928: drawing mainly on the State Papers Domestic.)

Can any one identify Colonel William Hawley? I do not find him in such records of the Muscovy Company as remain in the PRO.

Professor Roland G. Usher has kindly looked in his records of the members of the Long Parliament and their families and connection, but in vain. And Mr. Godfrey Davies has kindly looked, though also in vain, in his and Sir Charles Firth's army lists. I should like most of all, of course, to connect Colonel Hawley with Milton, since I believe there is a connection between the Moscovia and this excitement over Russia in the City and in the government in Milton's first year in office.

- George B. Parks (Queens College)

#### AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP

A note from E. N. Hooker (U. of Cal. at L. A.), whose second volume of The Critical Works of John Dennis is now in print, calls attention to "the article by Laski in the New Statesman." "A nice tribute to the importance of American scholarship, and among other things, to the work on puritanism by William Haller."

#### CHECK LIST OF COURTESY BOOKS

Seventeenth-century scholars will find much of interest in Virgil B. Heltzel's Checklist of Courtesy Books in the Newberry Library, recently published. Approximately half of the 1500 volumes listed bear seventeenth-century imprints. As the title indicates, the Newberry Library has unusually rich holdings of cour-

tesy books.

#### DRAMATIC MANUSCRIPTS

Dramatic manuscripts of the seventeenth century are not so numerous that their acquisition by American libraries can be ignored. William A. Jackson's recent Report of Accessions for the Year 1941-42 of the Houghton Library (Harvard) notes the purchase of Robert Burton's holograph manuscript of Philosophaster. Another Harvard accession is an anonymous Restoration play entitled Marriage Revived. Other dramatic manuscripts to find permanent American homes are James Wright's translation of Le Malade Imaginaire; E. D'Oyley's Britannicus, or The Man of Honour; Dryden's State of Innocence; Fulke Greville's Muscapha; and William Alabaster's Roxana (in English), which have recently been added to the Folger Shakespeare Library collections.

#### FACSIMILES

The two facsimiles reproduced in this issue are from originals in the Folger Shakespeare Library. (1) The scrap of music is in one of the volumes collected by J. O. Halliwell-Phillipps. (2) The manuscript is one page of a book in the hand of the author. Readers are invited to identify the sources of the facsimiles.

#### COMPARATIVE LITERATURE NEWS-LETTER

The youngest news-letter to enter the field is the Comparative Literature News-Letter, published by the Committee on Comparative Literature of the National Council of Teachers of English. Volume I, Number 2, issued in January, 1943, contains seven pages of comment and criticism by authors and scholars of note. Inquiries should be addressed to 211 West 68th Street, Chicago, or to Arthur E. Christy, Columbia University.



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SCHOLARSHIP IN ENGLAND

A recent letter from W. W. Greg to one of the editors reads in part as follows:

I am afraid I can give you little news of the doings of any of your friends over here. Most of my own acquaintance are elderly, and have remained at their pre-war jobs; and I am much out of the way here and get little news of anyone.

At the moment I am trying to put together notes on "Some Aspects of Publishing, 1557-1642," mainly with a view to elucidating the dramatic entries in the Stationers' Register and the imprints in the books themselves. I am beginning to realize how uncommonly little we know of the ordinary working of the Stationers' Company.

We had a very quiet but pleasant Christmas-tide.... We are now doing some very amateur theatricals in the village for the Prisoners of War Fund.

SUBJECT-INDEX TO THE STC

A mimeographed announcement has just reached us from H. A. White (Nebraska). Dated February 15, 1943, it recounts the progress of his work on STC titles since the previous announcement (see A Seventeenth-Century News-Letter, Vol. I, No. 2, May, 1942). Whereas at that time some 16,000 slips had been made, the number has now been increased to over 30,000. A sample list of about 100 entries, ranging from "Accidents" through "miracles" to "Youth," is given, together with several specimens of the method by which individual titles are broken down into these entries. Controversial works, editions of the Bible, the Psalter, and the Prayer Book, and a few mi-

nor classes are excluded.

M.L.A. ANNOUNCEMENT

A letter from Percy W. Long (New York University), Secretary of the M.L.A., dated December 18, 1942, brings us the following information:

The cancellation of the Annual Meeting ... was occasioned by a direct request received from the Office of Defense Transportation.... The next Annual Meeting is constitutionally Eastern.....

The Council, accepting the report of the Committee on Nomination of Officers, has confirmed: 1943 President: Rudolph Schevill; 1943 First Vice-President: Robert Herndon Fife; 1943 Second Vice-President: Raymond D. Havens; 1943-46 A.C.L.S. Delegate: Sturgis E. Leavitt....

President Fadelford's ... Presidential Address is safe, and will appear in the Supplement.

MILTONIC MANUSCRIPTS

Miltonic manuscripts are so rare that the following documents touching Milton's brother and his nephews deserve to be recorded here. They are offered for sale by Maggs Brothers in Mercurius Britannicus #77 (January, 1943):

420. Legal opinion (c. 1685) written and signed by "Chr. Milton" on the question whether the king may remit certain penalties concerning religion.

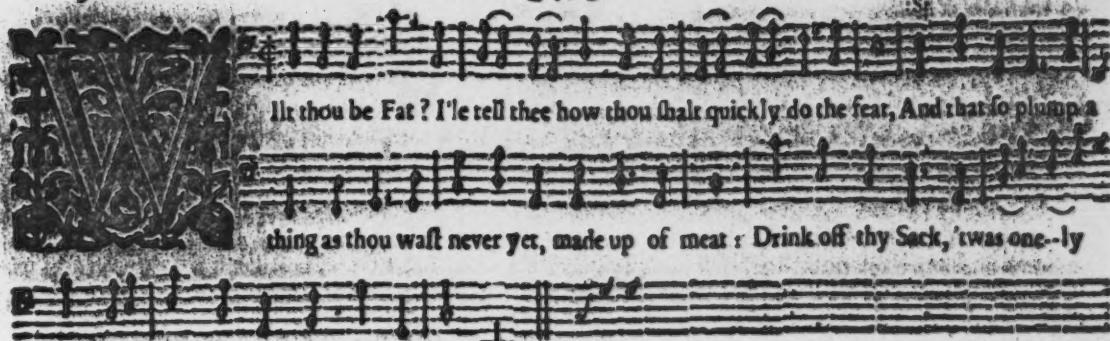
421. Receipt (April 28, 1680) signed by Thomas Milton, son of Christopher, for fees received from Sir George Jeffery.

422. Transfer of property (December 10, 1677) from John Peede to Thomas Milton, signed by Thomas,

-43. Voc.

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Mr. George Holmes.



that made Bacchus, and Jack Falstaff Fat Fat. Wilt, &c.

his brother Richard, and others.

#### WAR AMONG THE POETS

The present militarized condition of most of the world leads us occasionally to ask ourselves whether our ancestors of the seventeenth century ever had such feelings as we now experience. In browsing through this idle though appealing speculation, we turned up the following quotations, which we pass on for what they may be worth to the reader:

The tyrant custom, most grave  
senators,  
Hath made the flinty and steel  
couch of war  
My thrice-driven bed of down.  
(Shakespeare, Othello)

Who does i 'the wars more than  
his captain can  
Becomes his captain's captain.  
(Shakespeare, Antony and Cleopatra)

... and but for these vile guns  
He would himself have been a soldier.  
(Shakespeare, Henry IV)

My sentence is for open war.  
(Milton, Paradise Lost)

#### To the Reader

This Shepherd's plains apology (deare Friend)  
To me addres'd, to you I recommend:  
Since I conceive and sure I not mistake,  
Tis done for yours, as well as for my sake.  
Let this therefore, at my request suffice,  
Into this rest, to lend your gentle eyes,  
(Though little to expect, from promise life,  
This once much doe owe, that much professe)  
But you shall finde, as tis true Shepherds part  
In simple words, to maske an honest heart.  
So in his songs, of slander composition,  
Some vertue, is his innocent ambition.  
If brightest seven, and of richest worth,  
Is to the darkest foyle, the more set forth.  
Without all question; we the more should praise  
Any true vertue found in swaynish quires.  
True, if he envie your loue) has his designs,  
And if his works deserve it, I haue mine.

Deare servant

C.A.

and the Shepherds

C.A.

THE

THE



